

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
San Francisco District

Project Map

SONOMA COUNTY VERNAL POOLS, SECTION 206 SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st District, Rep. Mike Thompson; 6th District, Rep. Lynn Woolsey

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The study area covers about 55,000 acres in the Santa Rosa Plain and is located in Sonoma County, California, within the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and Windsor. Vernal pools are unique, seasonal wetlands which support primarily native, annual vegetation and are characterized by “ponding” in the winter and early spring. Once common throughout the Santa Rosa Plain, most vernal pools and associated habitat have either been destroyed or greatly altered due to land use practices and urbanization. Four native flowers unique to these vernal pools are now Federally listed as endangered.

FISCAL YEAR 03 BUDGET: \$0

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: This is a Section 206, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 1996), aquatic restoration and protection project. In FY98 Congress identified \$750,000 from the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) for construction of a pilot project to demonstrate the best techniques available to create, enhance, and restore vernal pool habitat, which may then be applied by other interests to future enhancement or mitigation projects.

PRESENT STATUS: The Section 206 demonstration project would consist of a Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP), a Feasibility-level study (Detailed Project Report, or DPR), preparation of plans and specifications for construction, and construction. The FY98 conference amount could not be expended due to the need to identify a project site and develop a plan for the demonstration project in coordination with local interests. FY99 efforts consisted of evaluating specific sites for the demonstration project provided by a potential non-Federal project sponsor. FY00 efforts consisted of initiating the PRP (a \$10,000 effort) in June 2000; in August 2000 work on the PRP was suspended until the local sponsor could provide access to the proposed project site. If the project site becomes available in FY02, then the PPR would be completed and the DPR would be initiated (an estimated \$190,000 effort).

FUTURE EFFORTS: Completion of the DPR in FY03, subject to availability of funds.

